

Message Text

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73

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00

EB-11 ABF-01 DRC-01 /161 W
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R 170910Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7552

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13502

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, JA, LA, CB

SUBJECT: JAPANESE AID TO LAOS AND CAMBODIA

REF: STATE 199632

SUMMARY: ECONCOM/MIN MADE APPROACH TO MINISTRY OF FINANCE
VICE MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCE URGING FAVORABLE
CONSIDERATION OF AID TO LAOS AND CAMBODIA. WILL FOLLOW
UP WITH SIMILAR APPROACH TO FONOFF. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING DISCUSSION OCTOBER 16 WITH INAMURA, VICE MINISTER
OF FINANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCE, ECONCOM/MIN RAISED
QUESTION OF JAPANESE AID TO LAOS AND CAMBODIA. ECONCOM/MIN
NOTED GREAT IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO THIS MATTER,
WHICH FAR EXCEEDS ACTUAL SUMS INVOLVED, AND EXPRESSED
HOPE INAMURA OR FINMIN AICHI WOULD VIEW IT IN BROAD
POLITICAL CONTEXT WHEN INTERMINISTERIAL CONSIDERATIONS
BRING QUESTION TO THEIR ATTENTION.

2. RE CAMBODIA, ECONCOM/MIN NOTED THAT EMBASSY AND FON-
OFF HAD BEEN DISCUSSING RICE FOR CAMBODIA, AND THAT AT
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THIS STAGE REMAINING PROBLEMS SEEM TO BE BETWEEN FONOFF
AND FOOD AGENCY. USG HOPES FOR SPEEDY DELIVERY OF THE

RICE, HE SAID, NOTING OUR FEAR THAT FOOD AGENCY MAY BE TAKING QTE BUSINESS AS USUAL APPROACH UNQTE WITHOUT APPRECIATING URGENCY OF SITUATION. TURNING TO ESF, ECONCOM/MIN NOTED THAT IT SEEMS QUITE CLEAR THAT ESF REQUIREMENTS WILL BE GREATER NEXT YEAR THAN THIS; THAT WE BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL THAT THE REQUIREMENTS BE MET; AND THAT WE WOULD URGE VERY STRONGLY MINISTRY OF FINANCE OFFICIAL IN CHARGE TO CONSIDER REQUIREMENTS IN A SYMPATHETIC MANNER KEEPING IN MIND BROAD POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS RATHER THAN MERELY FINANCIAL OR BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS.

3. RE LAOS, ECONCOM/MIN FIRST MENTIONED FEOF. HE EXPRESSED HOPE GOJ WOULD MAKE ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS THIS YEAR TO COMPENSATE FOR CURRENCY REALIGNMENTS, AND TO HELP MEET ANTICIPATED SHORTFALL. HE REQUESTED MOF TO TAKE POSITIVE APPROACH TO 1974 CONTRIBUTION, KEEPING IN MIND STRONG LIKELIHOOD OF INCREASED FEOF REQUIREMENTS. FINALLY, ECONCOM/MIN RECALLED RECENT GOJ FACT-FINDING MISSION TO LAOS AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GOJ WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

4. INAMURA RESPONDED BY STATING THAT QUESTIONS OF AID TO LAOS AND CAMBODIA HAD NOT YET COME TO HIS PERSONAL ATTENTION, ALTHOUGH HE AWARE MULTILATERAL CONFERENCE WILL SOON BEGIN IN PARIS CONCERNING AID TO INDOCHINA, TO WHICH MOF HAS SENT A DELEGATE. HE NOTED THAT CAMBODIA IS A DIFFICULT POLITICAL PROBLEM IN JAPAN; LAOS IS LESS A PROBLEM. ECONCOM/MIN RESPONDED THAT HE HOPES GOJ APPRECIATES GREAT NEED FOR ASSISTANCE TO THESE COUNTRIES, AND THAT TWO GOVERNMENTS MAY NOT HAVE LUXURY OF PLACATING OPPONENTS OF SUCH AID. INAMURA CONCLUDED BY TAKING NOTE OF ECONCOM/MIN'S QTE KEEN INTEREST UNQTE AND UNDERTAKING TO ASK THE BUREAU CONCERNED (INTERNATIONAL FINANCE) WHAT ITS THINKING IS. A DECISION ON THIS PROBLEM MAY BE UP TO MINISTER AICHI, HE SAID, AND HE WOULD MAKE CERTAIN AICHI INFORMED OF ECONCOM/MIN'S APPROACH.

5. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP WITH TAKASHIMA, DIRECTOR GENERAL,
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ASIAN AFFAIRS BUREAU, FONOFF, IN NEAR FUTURE.
INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

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